IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph in the original specification on page 9, line 20, as follows:

Identification of nisA and nisB competitive microorganisms: A polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method was used to identify competitive microorganisms that encode NisA and NisB. Bacterial DNA was extracted using a microbial genomic DNA isolation kit according to the protocol described by the manufacturer (Mo Bio Laboratories, Solana Beach, CA). The oligonucleotide sequences of the primers used for *nisA* were 5-CGGCTCTGATTAAATTCTGAAG (SEQ ID NO:1) and 5-CGGTTGAGCTTAAATGAAC (SEQ ID NO:2) and for *nisB* were 5-AGAGAAGTTATTTACGATCAAC (SEQ ID NO:3) and 5-ATCTGACAACAAATCTTTTTGT (SEQ ID NO:4). PCR was performed with an Icycler 96 Well Reaction Module (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) according to the procedure described by Olasupo, N.A., U. Schillinger, A. Narbag, H. Dodd, and W.H. Holzapfel, Occurrence of nisin Z production in Lactococcus lactis BFE 1500 isolated from wara, a traditional Nigerian cheese product. Int. J. Food Mirobiol. 53:141-152 (1999) incorporated herein by reference.

Following page 40:

Please insert the attached sequence listing (2 pages).